

Palazzo Salizini, 117, Via della Lupa, Rome, Nov.  
17, 1857. - Hey ho! R. D. W. an ever so pretty  
fellow, to treat Anna Weston or any of the Westons  
in such a manner? - This present 8<sup>th</sup> of February  
1858, is the first time for ever so long that I have  
a fair chance of writing to you, and soon your  
letter reached me and we have had a dull time in the  
house. My daughter Deborah looked delicate  
spoke for some days, during which she was troubled  
with a pain in the side of which we knew nothing  
until she was compelled to take to her bed, and there  
she was in for a low nervous fever which was not  
very severe in itself - but it was attended or followed  
by a torturing attack of inflammation which at times  
filled the house with her moans & although she has  
great endurance & is very aware to be a burden to  
others. She is now quite convalescent, but the attack  
was so sharp and so long that she has not yet  
by any means recovered her former health. At the  
same time of this poor girl's illness, as for a good  
part of the time my mother in law with was with  
us, very feeble, ailing, old and nervous, - and  
between them the house was like an hospital  
and we had a dreary time - not knowing what  
would be the end of it all.

The cause of my present writing is to herald the  
coming of a very good fellow, my double first cousin,  
whose mother was my father's sister. His father my  
mother's brother, Jack Sparrow, at 2000 Leomin is his  
name. He is in business here in Dublin, & has taken  
a violent fancy to visit Italy, & talks of going  
just to Naples in less than a fortnight from today  
- from thence to Rome. He is not specially literary,  
scholarly, classical or Romantic - but the Wiltors with  
whom he is connected by blood, have the name of being



perfectly self giving & would do for what - and  
I # suspect he has unbridled some of this spirit.  
However this may be, he is one of the best souls I  
have any knowledge of - kind, generous, straight  
forward, and high spirited in the best sense -  
and I feel particular pleasure in doing him a  
service. With this view I have been deep in  
Murray & have studied him much more deeply  
as he stands than in any way. There is a  
plan for doing Rome in 8 days. I have gone  
over this carefully, meeting every thing of mind  
entered, and making out an itinerary which I  
flatter myself will be of great use to him. He has  
a pair of long legs, and will be well provided with  
money, so that I expect he will get over the ground  
and pay his way like a man - but I told him  
I would give him a hint to some friends of mine who  
~~that~~ could for my sake give him a hand or two  
provided he stood in need of it. He is a some-  
what shy, diffident fellow - so that I do not  
fear he will in the least upon or run kindness.  
There is no man in Ireland of whose substantial car-  
acter I have a higher opinion & therefore I feel  
rather at my ease in taking this liberty, which I  
would not do if he were a very ordinary body.

It was a very great gratification to learn from  
your letter as well as from others that I have since  
received to learn that none of your circle ~~was~~ & so  
few ~~were~~ of the Massachusetts abolitionists had  
suffered from the panic. I had letters from Edmund  
Loring, Mrs Chapman & Samuel May to this  
effect which were very comforting in this respect.



in Ireland careful in the enterprising manufacturing  
towns of Belfast the Pain was little felt. None of  
our banks failed, and we escaped much better than  
England & Scotland, as we have so little to do with the  
United States in the capacity of creditors. I am  
told that the New York Herald boasts that by  
the pain, John Bull has been cured of a large  
portion of property which he had entrusted to the  
probity of Americans. Some of our newspapers,  
my friend the Saturday Review, & very soon after  
this point came no wonder.

As to the Indian mutiny my mind is going through  
a great revolution by means of it. I at first regarded  
it as merely a military revolt, and in common  
with most others I regarded the massacre and tales  
of horror and violence with angry disgust. Since  
then I have read a good deal and I am disposed  
to think that the English are regarded in the East  
with great dislike in India, and that the sym-  
pathy of the people was with the mutineers, that  
it is not probable, although the rebellion as it is called  
may be put down, that Great Britain will ever so  
far recover his prestige as to succeed in making  
willing subjects of the natives. I believe that the  
prejudice against colour, and dislike and con-  
tempt towards the natives as blacks and aliens  
is too strong to be easily eradicated. I don't  
think the country can ever be safely governed  
by England except despotically, and they being  
so it can never be ruled by her with the  
good will of the people and their priests & nobles  
native princes. Whatever the English enter may  
say of ruling the country in such a way as to secure  
its best interests, I believe they have up to a very



recent times been beneficent, disinterested, & generous exactly as Alexander, Caesar, & Napoleon always claimed to be. They talk of making the people Christians. They will never succeed. Was ever a mass of nations made religious by such preach or converted by such arguments as they have to offer side by side with such ~~an~~ examples? I believe the Indian Mahomedans and followers of Bramah are just as factious & as averse to factious arguments to offer to us as the Pope, & where could the use be of reasoning with him, who venerates St. Dominick & regards him as one of the chief champions of Christianity? The English have ruled India selfishly - as they have until lately governed Ireland. Now no country in the world enjoys a more beneficent, considerate, & liberal Government than Ireland, or no country is there greater holder of religious liberty - and yet I am confident that if Ireland were polled, a majority of the people (an ignorant & fanatically selfish majority, it must be said) would vote for the government of Louis Napoleon in preference. The priests have the people in their hands and a very bad use they make of them. The common Englishman is a much less moral & sensible man than our Irishman - but they are far more truthful & really, greater lovers of fair play.

I had letters from Mrs. Chapman & Mr. May today. The lady's enclosure contained a batch of envelopes for other people which she asked me to read & which either with my own eyes or by the help of Mrs. Wilks which are far better than mine I have read. They are not halves of a thousand things - but only half of an one thing, which is this - that perhaps it will be better to have no more Bazaar - but only to get money in future. The idea is beautifully ~~the~~ simple & I wish it well. Unfortunately being written at Wellington or a Napoleon (I put the honest man first - they were both born in 1769) & therefore cannot see a question in all its bearings in



17 Nov. 57  
once. Many of our donors give very little of any  
value - so little that I imagine the paper & duty would  
do them an injury. Those who do send money, could  
as willingly lend the money - I imagine  
that if all were considered there would be no loan  
and a great saving of ~~money~~ <sup>trouble</sup> on both sides of the water.  
Mrs Chapman says that as matters now go, many in  
the U. S. who fancy they give great help when they buy  
the gifts of others might possibly give themselves if  
they were deprived of this opportunity of throwing dirt  
into their own eyes. There is very metaphysical - don't  
blame your poor sister for it I fear you.

In Ballston when I was at school, two old ladies lived  
together, a mother & daughter. They kept a little shop,  
their names were Abby & Becky Widdow, they were  
friends, and as sometimes happen even in our country,  
they failed in business. The older lady was rather  
hard of the catastrophe, and was greatly to be  
back, or ear of an epoch, to the time when I failed.  
I have also got something to boast of - and therefore they  
you all to stand out of my way, since I have been at  
length taken in (and and flared in Frederick Douglass  
paper by Frederick Douglass himself - once, yes, twice -  
he because I ventured to suggest that John was back biting  
the Am. A. S. Society, & collecting money for Frederick, with  
an eye to some debt that he would thus be the better  
enabled to pay to that distinguished man. You will  
be happy to hear that my health is good & that I mean  
to make a great display of magnanimity and indef-  
erence by never noticing the infraction.

Last evening I had an old friend to talk to who  
has just returned from New York after a stay of  
8 years during which he never left the city - a  
free, dry, thinking, discussing old bachelor. He  
went out an abolitionist & a presbyterian. He has  
returned as staunch an abolitionist as ever - but a  
confirmed sinner - exceedingly disgusted with the churches  
and the religious professions.



I have written to Miss Estlin to tell her of my coming  
intended only to Rome so that she may have time  
to write by her if she has time & any thing to say.  
I had a very touching letter from her lately in refer-  
ence to the sudden death of her father Sister Mrs.  
Richard, widow of Dr Potter celebrated ethnologist.  
She died I think of cholera in the same room in  
which her sister Mrs Fox died a few months before.  
Mrs Fox was Miss E's favorite aunt and her death  
leaves a great blank in her Bristol circle.

Miss Wigham, I hope to see here shortly - if she be not  
already abroad in her capacity of bridesmaid to her  
brother Henry newly married wife. When she comes  
we will hold a grand bazaar, or this grand perspiration  
from Boston that she in short in future shall not the money  
and not merely its counterpart for anti-slavery purposes.

Mrs. Chapman talks of the "College of the Prophets"  
established within the last few years in Quaker neighbors-  
hood & speaks of her little Annie - the poor dear woman  
does not know, I suppose, that the child is as late as  
her mother and may her shadow now be lying in the  
lancet aspiration of the abner of Frederick Douglass.

I find to tell you that my friend Robert Johnson reads  
little intimately in New York amidst the abolition  
ists whom he regards as the salt of that people. He looks  
forward to a civil war & a depopulation of the Union as  
the most probable solution of the question of Slavery.

Miss Estlin who <sup>then</sup> ~~now~~ I heard, any thing from  
Miss Weston, and where is she? To think I mean  
to reply this very day that I believe she is in  
Paris but that I have not heard from her since  
I saw the light of her countenance. In she had the  
martha of the family than she and her hands  
full of this least bit too of the concern of the  
around her. I am so considerate that I suspect  
nothing from her tho I always rejoice when it comes.



I know that little communions are very troublesome  
business - but if you should happen to fill in the  
way of any wild flowers about Rome, particularly  
in the Coliseum or some other of those romantic  
spots - such as the Baths of Caracalla I would be  
glad to have a share of them in a very packed with  
help of paper between. I would then for an old friend  
where I know they would gratify. I have not received  
them - but I have at them, both of them and I feel  
in your way it makes no matter. By yours I mean  
not you, but those youth, Emma or Annie. And if  
you should make the application in my name I beg  
you to do so in the most proper manner.

A box of Pills & Barks from Boston is I hope in  
Dulham I should be here today. I am ~~fully~~ forgetting  
about it and would be glad it was here before this  
letter goes that I might tell you whether there  
is any thing in it that smells particularly of  
home.

In the matter of eyes I am also troubled. I  
find that the dancing master & Musée Volantes  
have come upon me. It is a troublesome affliction  
than I believe some communions with the digestion.  
But time has also to do with it. Accordingly I  
read less than I used to do - though that I manage  
to get through many books - for in a second matter  
my daughter Deborah uses her eyes very little &  
reads little enough by music which she is fond  
of - she plays that brother Pyramus, Lark, King and  
so they make a musical trio when they are all  
in the wood. Now since she had the measles - and  
a very slight attack too - about two years since,  
her sight has been weak - & we have decreased  
much that would fatigue them.



I was very much pining to tell you that we hear frequently  
of Miss Martineau from her being <sup>in</sup> London with her  
in from Susan, whom we know better who lives in  
Birmingham. Her impression is that she holds her  
own and that she may live for years. I imagine there  
is a good deal that is peculiar about her as well as her  
wonderful ability. She has published several books  
lately, two about India. This view is like most  
of the English, that it is our business to keep the  
country the rule it heretofore. From much of  
my late reading I conclude that the subjugation of the  
country up to the very last annexations have been  
unjust, rapacious, & unbecomable on any ground  
of principle or international right. I do not  
believe that any country could at a distance of  
ten thousand miles rule another to good purpose,  
where the language, religion, habits & propensities are  
totally different from its own, and where re-  
vivalization is impossible.

Feb. 12 - There is a horribly stupid & deformed letter. I have  
been almost the whole day writing to her Chapman  
& he may shew off the Bull & other books that  
came to hand this very day. If I can I will  
send you a Bull by Jacob - perhaps he would  
be afraid to take Liberty Bells into his hands &  
then what could all the poor little sparrows do?

I very often think of you and would be much  
glad I could pop in upon you from under the  
sparrows wing - I hope hence a continuous note of  
mine agreeable & amiable sedate & gentle my  
faithful correspondent - Yours ever affectionately

Now is Caroline where is she  
& who is the tall one of  
How Miss Estlin & I longed at the Manchester Exhibition  
that the lady whose face, dress & complexion were so  
like Caroline would only turn out to be her own self

Richd D Webb